

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 271030Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3955

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LISBON 4930

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE POLITICAL CRISIS AND ALLIED DEMARCHES

REF: (A) STATE 202520; (B) LONDON 13154; (C) STATE
203729; (D) PARIS 21854

1. I MET SEPARATELY LAST NIGHT WITH BRITISH AND FRENCH
AMBASSADORS. BRITISH HAD ALREADY RECEIVED RESPONSE FROM LONDON TO
OUR DEMARCHE. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD RECEIVED NO NEWS. I
BRIEFED THEM BOTH FULLY ON BACKGROUND OF DEMARCHES.

2. BOTH AMBASSADORS AGREED THAT WE WERE AT A CRITICAL POINT
IN PORTUGUESE POLITICAL DRAMA, THAT BEST POLICY FOR WEST WAS
TO SUPPORT MELO ANTUNES GROUP AND THAT TIME WAS NOW RUNNING
AGAINST MELO ANTUNES. BRITISH AMBASSADOR HAD SOME
RESERVATIONS, BECAUSE HE HAD SEEN COSTA GOMES ONLY LAST
FRIDAY ON ANOTHER MATTER AND HAD RAISED GENERAL POLITICAL
CONCERNS AT THAT TIME ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. BUT HE DID
NOT OPPOSE MAKING ANOTHER EFFORT. HE HAD BEEN QUERIED BY

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LONDON ON WHETHER ANTUNES GROUP HAD THOUGHT THROUGH POSSIBLE

ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS OF DEMARCHES. (REFTEL B. I DOUBT BRITISH AMBASSADOR WILL BE ABLE TO CHECK DIRECTLY WITH MELO ANTUNES GROUP WHICH IS BEING EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN THEIR CONTACTS WITH WEST.) I ASSURED HIM THAT THEY HAD AND NOTED THAT THEY HAD MADE TWO REQUESTS FOR EUROPEAN SUPPORT. IN ADDITION I HAD LEARNED FROM A SOURCE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE THAT U.S. DEMARCHE HAD HAD POSITIVE EFFECT.

3. FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS GENERALLY BEEN NEGATIVE ON DEMARCHES TO COSTA GOMES. SURPRISINGLY, I FOUND HIM RATHER POSITIVE THIS TIME. I PARTICULARLY STRESSED THAT ANTUNES GROUP HAD REQUESTED DEMARCHES, AND THEY WERE IN A BETTER POSITION THAN ANY OF US TO JUDGE THEIR POTENTIAL EFFECT. HE AGREED, ADDING THAT IN ANY EVENT WE HAD NOTHING TO LOSE AT THIS POINT. LATTER COMMENT INDICATES THAT FRENCH EMBASSY NOW SHARES OUR VIEW THAT TIDE BEGINNING TO RUN AGAINST MELO ANTUNES. PERHAPS THIS WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON DECOURCEL'S OUTLOOK.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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NNN

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